GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:294
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2008
SANCTUARIES FOR RHINOCEROS
Singh Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the national parks/reserves/sanctuaries for Rhinoceros in the country;

(b) the total number of Rhinoceros in all the national parks/reserves/sanctuaries in the country as on date, park/reserve/sanctuary-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for their upkeep and protection ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S.REGUPATHY)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 294 DUE FOR REPLY ON 19-3-2008 REGARDING "SANCTUARIES FOR RHINOCEROS".

(a) & (b) The details of the Protected Areas in the country where rhinoceros are present and their estimated population is as under:

State	Protected Area	Estimated population and year of estimation
Assam	Kaziranga National Park	1855 (2006)
Assam	Manas National Park	4 (2008)
Assam	Orang National Park	68 (2006)
Assam	Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary	81 (2006)
Assam	Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary	1 (2006)
West Bengal	Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary	108 (2006)
West Bengal	Gorumara National Park	27 (2006)
Uttar Pradesh	Dudhwa National Park	27 (2008)

(c) The steps taken by Government of India to protect wildlife and prevent poaching of wildlife including rhinoceros are as under:

1. The Central Government has enacted the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to deal with the issues of wildlife crime. Stringent penalties are imposed on the offenders for the contravention of the provisions of the Act.

2. A network of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries has been set up across the country to protect wildlife.

3. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, with a network of five Regional and three Sub Regional Offices, has been set up to control wildlife crime.

4. Financial support is being provided under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes −Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger and Project Elephant, to State/UT Governments for the conservation and development of wildlife and its habitats including those of rhinoceros.

5. India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that regulates international trade in wildlife and its derivatives.

6. India has bilateral arrangements with China and Nepal on combating wildlife crime.

In addition, the State Governments have also taken the following measures to protect wild animals and prevent poaching of rhinoceros:

1. Intensive patrolling in sensitive areas and filling up of vacant posts.

2. Coordination with other law enforcement agencies.

3. Provision for arms and ammunition, and communication facilities.

4. Conducting nature awareness campaigns for the public.5. Soliciting cooperation from the local communities.